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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

5 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

Over the weekend, North Korean forces in considerable strength broke through positions held by the ROK forces on the east coast in a push toward Kyongju. The US 24th Division has been ordered to move into the area. Along the rest of the defense perimeter, UN forces generally held their positions against heavy enemy pressure. UN naval units gave close support fire to ground units along the east and south coast, and attacked North Korean military and industrial targets in the Pyongyang area.

UN air units rendered close support to ground units and B-29s attacked a gunpowder plant in the North Korean industrial city of Haeju on the west coast.

South Sector

The US 25th Division continued to maintain its general defense positions in the face of continuous attacks from the enemy's 6th and 7th Divisions. A battalion of the 27th Regiment is encircled by the enemy and is being supplied by airdrop. To the north in the US 2nd Division's zone, elements of the 2nd Division and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade are making slow progress against the Changnyang bridgehead. Other units of the 2nd Division continue to hold new positions following earlier withdrawals.

Center Sector

The 27th UK Brigade (two battalions) has moved into the line in the southernmost portion of the US 1st Cavalry's zone near Tuksong. The 5th and 7th Cavalry Regiments continue to hold their positions along

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the Nakdong River to Waegwan. Strong enemy forces in the area to the northeast of Waegwan cut off elements of the 8th Cavalry Regiment, but contact was made with these isolated elements later.

East Sector

The sector held by the ROK 1st and 6th Divisions remained relatively quiet with only light enemy contact. The enemy's 12th Division penetrated positions defended by the ROK Capital Division in the Kigye area and is reported to be threatening the key city of Kyongju. The US 21st Regiment has established a defence perimeter around the city, and the US 24th Division has been ordered into the area. The ROK 8th and 3rd Divisions continued to hold on the right and left flanks of the enemy breakthrough.

Navy

Fire missions in support of ground troops were executed by UN naval forces on the eastern and southern coastal fronts. Other naval units attacked military and economic targets in the Pyongyang area on the North Korean west coast.

Air

FEAF units provided close support to ground units. B-29s attacked a gunpowder plant in the North Korean west coast industrial city of Haeju. North Korean air action was again reported in the northern sector when a Yak fighter attacked a UN observation plane.

Press reports indicate that a twin-engine bomber marked with red stars (similar markings are used by the North Korean air force) was shot down when it attacked a UN fighter patrol. A body recovered from the wreckage by a UN destroyer was identified as being that of a Soviet officer. (No official confirmation of the press report has reached CIA)

II. General Situation

No significant reports have been received during the past 24 hours.

R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
Intelligence